Concordia University
Arts and Science

Liberal Arts
COLLEGE

http://artsandscience1.concordia.ca/liberal_arts_college

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www.concordia.ca

Liberal Arts College

Liberal Arts College (LAC) is a special program and a special place, unique in Montreal and across Canada. As a program, its demanding, required "Great Books" Core Curriculum (42 of the 90 degree-credits necessary for university graduation, 60 credits for Honours) consists of a series of interrelated, multi-disciplinary year-long seminars. The Core represents a 20th century vision of liberal arts education, a sustained "conversation" with men and women whose thought, from antiquity forward, constitutes "the Western tradition."

The College assumes that to know who we are, and hence what we might become, we must first know where and what we have been. *LAC's* carefully crafted curriculum is designed to provide serious students with the indispensable tools—factual knowledge and analytic—expressive techniques—crucial to their self-development as educated persons.

We view the Western tradition as worth studying not only intrinsically, as a cultural corpus of great power and beauty, but also because it has been, and is, self-critical, able to address and to right past wrongs, exclusions and repressions. The tradition, like us, both changes and remains the same.

Facilities

Liberal Arts College is housed in its own four-storey building at 2040 Mackay Street, on Concordia University's downtown Sir George Williams Campus.

All College seminars are given at 2040 Mackay, where the accessible staff of resident faculty Fellows have their offices. The *Rita Mary Tucker Library*, one of the few private libraries at Concordia, is located in the College, as are our Reception Hall and Common Room, where regular weekly faculty-student Coffee Hours are held.

College Life

Class trips (to New York City's museums and theatres and, every few years, to Europe) reinforce the Core Curriculum. Student groups abound, and play—including periodic theme weekends and the Christmas and February Break parties—supplements College work.

The annual College magazine prints student submissions, and the year ends with the traditional "Last Supper." Our "Friends of the College" community group and the Alumni/ae Society and its *Minerva* magazine support the College.

Who Comes to LAC?

Since its inception in 1977, the College has earned an international reputation as a unique education resource. It attracts many able applicants seeking a broad yet intensive university education, from Montreal-area English and French CEGEPs, from Quebec and across Canada, the U.S., and outside North America.

Students are drawn by the College's multidisciplinary "Great Books" Core Curriculum education, by its international reputation for academic excellence, and by its small size and personalized learning environment. Some value the Core's ability to aid in finding a specific disciplinary "Major"; others value the special combination of a small College with a large urban university's rich academic resources; and many enjoy the opportunity *LAC* represents in Montreal and Quebec of studying in both an English and French milieu.

LAC's Commitment to Teaching

LAC emphasizes careful and creative teaching, on a personalized seminar basis.

All College students benefit from small classes and close advising. *LAC's* respected program of Liberal Arts Lecturers, outstanding Visiting Scholars who give both public talks and College-only seminars, enriches the program across the academic year, as do the First Year trips to New York City. Periodically organized Third-Year European study-tours (so far to Vienna; Athens and Jerusalem; Moscow and St. Petersburg; and in 1998 and 2005 to Florence, Italy) also complement the Core program.

LAC's Entrance Requirements

Liberal Arts College seeks serious and able students prepared to work hard to achieve a fine education. General requirements are, normally and minimally, a "B" average from CEGEP or high school, or equivalent for mature students, and a reading knowledge of a second language, normally French. (Average requirements may be waived, following an interview, in special cases for promising students; students admitted without language background must develop proficiency while resident in the College.)

Applying to LAC

Students wishing to apply to *LAC* should fill out the regular Concordia University Application for Admission, checking off "*Liberal Arts College*" on the form. Given the large number of applicants and the relatively small entering class, we advise you to apply as early as possible. To facilitate your application, contact the College directly, by phone, e-mail or letter, to arrange the normally required personal interview.

Liberal Arts College
Concordia University
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8

Telephone: 514-848-2424 ext. 2565
Fax: 514-848-2573
E-mail: ldiorio@alcor.concordia.ca
http://artsandscience1.concordia.ca/liberal_arts_college/

Statement of Purpose Essay

An original, typed Statement of Purpose (1-2 pp), on why one wishes to come to *LAC*, is also required of all applicants. Students who wish to do so may also ask instructors to send the College letters of recommendation.

Scholarship Aid

Students applying to the *LAC* are eligible for Concordia Entrance Scholarships, as well as other available awards. Scholarship information is available on the University's website at www.concordia.ca. You must apply to the University by March 1st to ensure eligibility. The College also has a small number of internal scholarships. Information about these is available from the *LAC* office.

The LAC Lectures

Each year the College presents a series of Lectures, open to the public, given by distinguished international scholars addressing issues and themes related to the College's Core Curriculum. Each Lecturer also gives a special seminar open only to College students.